



Transfer Course Approval Guidelines – General Studies

Per the catalog, departments determine whether a course in their area deserves General Studies designation, but the Faculty Senate General Studies Committee (spring 2020) deferred to individual departments to determine whether or not they wished to provide the registrar with guidelines for determining if a course deserves General Studies designation without department consultation. Departments in these remaining categories unanimously agreed to give designation power to the transfer evaluators under the following guidelines. These guidelines outline how the Registrar Transfer Team can make determinations of General Studies courses by following the learning outcomes for each requirement.

The FSGSC suggests the following over-arching criteria for conferral of general studies credit:

- ✓ If the course is a general studies/general education course in a similar category at the home institution.
- ✓ If the course is an upper level course that is similar in approach and/or scope to courses in the MSU Denver General Studies Program, or otherwise fits a General Studies designation.
- ✓ If there is a similar gtPathways course at any Colorado institution.
- ✓ If the course has a similar title/description to one of our general studies courses, even if it is not an exact equivalent.
- ✓ If the course fits the category description of one of our General Studies categories, and meets the spirit/mission of our General Studies Program.

The following guidelines are for transfer evaluators to assign General Studies credit to MSU Denver transfer students by category.

Written Communication

- Continue to use exact equivalencies or defer to departments for written communication credit

Quantitative Literacy

- Continue to use exact equivalencies or defer to departments for quantitative literacy

Oral Communication

- COMM courses:
 - If a course is a General Studies course in an oral communication category at another institution, please give oral communication credit.

- Send ambiguous or questionable cases to the chair of Communication Studies.
- For all other potential oral communication courses, please use exact equivalencies or refer to department.

Arts and Humanities (6 credits)

Description:

In Arts and Humanities courses students interpret, analyze, and create texts and other artistic works to deepen their understanding of the various contexts that shape the human experience and explore fundamental questions of identity, value, diversity, and meaning.

1. Describe how the context (historical, racial, ethnic, material, technological, religious, intellectual, cultural, gender, etc.) influences the creation, content, or interpretation of a text, performance, work of art, etc.
2. Critically engage with a text, performance, work of art, etc. by applying social/political, epistemic, aesthetic, pragmatic, moral/ethical, or other discipline-appropriate standards.
3. Implement course content or skills through the creation of an original project (essay, argument, narrative, reflection, oral presentation, performance, work of art, etc.).

Additional guidelines to be met for each discipline represented in the requirement:

Philosophy:

- Classes called World Religions, Religions East and West, etc. should be accepted as PHI8000 (no clear Metro equivalent) and given Arts and Humanities credit (AH12).
- Courses like Indigenous Religions, African Religions should also be designated PHI 8000 and given both Arts and Humanities (AH12) and Global Diversity credit (GD12).
- More specialized courses like Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam can be either PHI8000 or 9000 depending on their level and given both Arts and Humanities (AH12) and Global Diversity credit (GD12).
 - A course on Judaism or Christianity should be given Arts and Humanities (AH12) credit but not automatically be given Global Diversity credit. The Philosophy department may grant Global Diversity credit for courses in those subjects if the course syllabus warranted.
- Courses like Critical Reasoning, Logical Argument, etc., etc., (millions of different names) should NOT automatically count as equivalent to our Language, Logic, and Persuasion. LLP has a large speech component that allows it satisfy the Oral Communication requirement. By GT Pathways and articulation agreements, these courses need to satisfy the state "Ways of Thinking" requirement. That means they need to be given Arts and Humanities credit.

English

- All courses must have some written element for the course to transfer as Arts and Humanities—a paper, essay, or project that requires a significant written component.

Historical (3 credits)

Description: Historical thinking contextualizes the present by using a wide range of sources and methods to understand how people experienced the past.

1. Demonstrate the ability to locate sources when information is needed, and to evaluate the authenticity, validity, and reliability of resources applied to a specific purpose.
2. Communicate in writing with an awareness of audience, by using language conventions appropriate to the occasion and task.
3. Demonstrate historical knowledge of the United States, the world, or one of the major regions of the world.
4. Demonstrate, using historical sources, how context and contingency influence change over time.
5. Develop an effective historical interpretation and marshal primary and/or secondary source evidence to support it.

Natural and Physical Sciences (6 credits)

Description: The Natural and Physical Sciences involve discovering knowledge in natural or physical sciences, applying scientific thinking and reasoning, and critically thinking about the use of scientific information.

1. Explain the foundational knowledge of a particular field of natural or physical science
2. Apply principles and techniques of scientific thinking.
3. Evaluate the credibility of scientific information and interpret the impact of its use or misuse in society.

Note: Both lecture and lab credits can count here. MSU Denver does not require a lab.

Additional guidelines to be met for each discipline represented in the requirement:

Biology:

- Anatomy and Physiology courses cannot count toward General Studies unless they are part of the Colorado gtPathways curriculum. **There are two majors with exceptions to this rule per the General Studies part of the catalog:**
 - **Nursing Majors:** Credit for biology courses of anatomy and physiology, in which the student earned a grade of "C" or better, may be substituted for the natural and physical sciences requirement for all students with a nursing major.
 - **Human Performance and Sport Majors:** Students will use BIO 2310 Human Anatomy and Physiology I (4 credits) to satisfy a portion of the natural and physical sciences requirement.
- Non-Majors Biology courses that do not meet the equivalent to BIO 1000 Human Biology for Non-Majors or BIO 1030 General Biology for Non-Majors should get LAS8000 with the NS12 General Studies Attribute

Social and Behavioral Science (6 credits)

Description: Courses in Social and Behavioral Science study the behavior and actions of individuals, groups, and/or institutions using scientific methods and approaches. Social and Behavioral Science also develops a student's ability to examine and influence those behaviors and actions between and among larger social, economic, political, and/or geographic contexts.

1. Describe foundational concepts in the social and behavioral sciences.

2. Examine how individuals, groups, communities, and social institutions relate or interact with each other and/or the natural world using theories and methods in the social and behavioral sciences.
3. Engage with social and behavioral science tools, approaches, and skills to explore complex human, social, political, cultural, and/or global interactions and issues.